

CITY OF ROCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

City and Port of Rochester

1953

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE 1953/54

Chairman - Councillor G.A. Tickner

Vice-Chairman - Councillor G.E. Washford

The Mayor - Councillor C.H.R. Skipper, J.P., C.C.

The Deputy Mayor - Alderman A.A.J. Anderson, J.P.

Aldermen A.C. Lyle, W. Longley, E. Washford, J.P., A.T.H. Ring, C.S. Knight, J.P.,
F.C. Burton, H.R. Swain.

Councillor W. Wilkinson
Councillor J.D. May
Councillor N.W. Wood
Councillor R.M. Pattenden
Councillor M.H. Cole
Councillor Col. H.S. Shave, O.B.E.
Councillor F. Corry
Councillor L.E.D. Darley
Councillor S.H. Swayland
Councillor L. Shuter
Councillor I.J. Phillips
Councillor J. Green
Councillor F.N. Tessier
Councillor Dr. W.S. Donaldson
Councillor G.A. Page
Councillor J. Chapman
Councillor T.F. Allen
Councillor J. Ferguson

MEMBERS OF THE PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE 1953/54

Chairman - Councillor M.H. Cole

The Mayor - Councillor C.H.R. Skipper, J.P., C.C.

The Deputy Mayor - Alderman A.A.J. Anderson, J.P.

Aldermen A.C. Lyle, W. Longley, E. Washford, J.P., A.T.H. Ring, C.S. Knight, J.P.,
H.R. Swain.

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Councillor G.A. Tickner
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Councillor G.E. Washford
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Councillor S.H. Swayland
Councillor L. Shuter
Councillor I.J. Phillips
Councillor J. Green
Councillor F.N. Tessier
Councillor Dr. W.S. Donaldson
Councillor G.A. Page
Councillor J. Chapman
Councillor T.F. Allen
Councillor J. Ferguson

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J.O. MURRAY, M.D., (Edin.Univ.), Ch.B. (Edin.Univ.),
D.P.H. (Liverpool Univ.).

Joint Appointment, Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Chatham

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

R.G. BRENNEN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Joint Appointment, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Chatham

Chief Sanitary Inspector

E.W. BARTON, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Sanitary Inspectors

A.H.W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.

J. HOGG, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I. (Resigned 18.10.53)

R.S. LANE, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.

P.A. DRINKWATER C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I. (Resigned 12.11.53)

L.A. CROFT, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I. (Appointed 1.1.54)

Port Health Inspector

C.H.N. EVANS, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I., A.I.N.A.

Veterinary Surgeon (Part-time)

D.G. LEWIS, M.R.C.V.S.

Clerks

Miss V.F.M. JENKINS, A.C.C.S.

Mrs. E. GWYER.

Miss J. DEVINE.

Miss M. TAYLOR.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
1, ESPLANADE,
ROCHESTER.

September, 1954.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1953.

1. Houses and Population.

455 new houses were erected during the year, of which 53 were built privately and 402 by the Local Authority.

9 houses were made the subject of Demolition Orders: 5 were dealt with by Closure and 104 were included in Slum Clearance Areas.

The demolition of 10 houses in Balls Square Clearance Area was completed and 19 houses which were subject to Demolition Orders, made in 1952, were demolished during the year.

The total number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books, was 13,879 at the end of the year.

The Registrar General's estimated population was 44,860, which is an increase of 961 from 1952.

The Natural Increase in population (excess of births over deaths) was '386 as compared with 231 in 1952.

2. Births.

There were 792 Live Births and 14 Still Births, an increase of 96 Live Births compared with 1952 and a decrease of 3 in the number of Still Births. The Still Birth Rate was 17 per 1,000 Total Births.

There were 36 illegitimate Births which is 4.4 per cent of the total Live and Still Births.

3. Infantile Mortality.

Seventeen infants under the age of 1 year died during the year, the infant Mortality Rate being 21 per 1,000 Live Births. This is the lowest recorded rate in the City. Eleven of the deaths occurred within the first fortnight of life and were associated with Congenital Deformity or Prematurity.

4. Deaths.

There were 406 deaths of which over one third were due to Disease of Heart and Blood Vessels. Further particulars of the causes of death are shown on pages 13 and 14.

There is a great change in the age at which death occurs. Fifty years ago over one-third of the total deaths were children under 5 years of age and about one quarter in persons over 65 years of age. Now, less than one-twentieth of the total deaths occur in children under 5 years and over two-thirds in persons over 65 years.

5. Infectious Disease.

Total notifications 1,206; Deaths 20 (see page 5).

936 cases of Measles were notified, the peak of the outbreak being reached during the second week in February. There were no deaths but 2 cases required hospital treatment.

5 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, 2 of which were non-paralytic, there was 1 death.

Pneumonia was notified in 87 persons and caused 19 deaths.

6. Health Propaganda.

In addition to advice by the Sanitary Inspectors to food handlers in the place of employment, public lectures have been given to various groups and organisations at which a total of 350 persons attended.

CENSUS 1951.

(REGISTRAR GENERAL'S COUNTY REPORT FOR KENT)

Population.

The 1951 Census figures are now available in greater detail and some of the main findings are of considerable interest in relation to the social conditions in the City and their trend during this century.

Population Increase.

During the first thirty years of the century the population showed comparatively little change, varying with slight fluctuations both up and down, from some 30,000 to 32,000 persons.

The ensuing twenty years saw a marked increase of 11,557, or some 36 per cent, to 43,934 persons in 1951. About 14 per cent of this increase was due to an excess of births over deaths. The balance of 22 per cent, chiefly due to immigration, includes 1,194 persons who formerly resided in the area added to the City as a result of the Kent Review Order, 1934.

The Ageing of the Population.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OUT OF EVERY HUNDRED PERSONS IN SPECIFIED AGE GROUPS IN THE YEARS 1901, 1931 AND 1951.

Ages in Years	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65 & over
1901	11	22	48	15	4
1931	7	17	46	22	8
1951	9	15	43	23	10

The increase in children under 5 years between 1931 and 1951 is associated with the larger birth rates preceding the 1951 census. This increase is, in all probability, a temporary one as the birth rate is now falling to the level of pre-war years.

The most outstanding feature of the above Table is the increased numbers of those over 65 years, from 4 in every 100 persons in 1901 to 10 in 1951. This trend towards an ageing population is likely to continue.

Women are surviving longer than men. To every 100 men surviving over the age of 65 years there are 137 women. The ratio in 1931 was 100 men to 125 women.

Sex Ratio.

There is a greater preponderance of females to males. There were 1,009 females to every 1,000 males in 1931; in 1951 there were 1053.

Distribution of Population by Residence, 1951.

42,898 persons, or just under 98 per cent of the total population, lived in private households: 264 (0.6 per cent) were in hotels, boarding houses or other communal establishments: 370 (0.8 per cent) were in hospitals or nursing homes: 280 (0.6 per cent) in places of detention and 121 (0.3 per cent) were on 16 civilian ships or barges.

Distribution of Population by Marital Condition.

In 1931, 45 per cent of the population were married, this has increased to 52 per cent in 1951.

Marriage at an earlier age has become more frequent.

The percentage of married people under 24 years has doubled, and under 19 years trebled, since 1931.

WIDOWED PERSONS

Year	Number	Males Percentage of all males	Number	Females Percentage of all females	Number	Total Percentage of Total Population
1951	668	3.1	2202	10.0	2870	6.5
1931	640	4.1	1362	8.7	2002	6.4

The proportion of widowed persons to the total population has remained unaltered at about 6.5 per cent but the ratio of widows to widowers which was 2 to 1 in 1931 had increased to 3 to 1 in 1951.

DIVORCED PERSONS

Year	Total Married		Male	Female	Total
	Male	Female			
1951	11466	11687	55	120	175
% of total married			0.48	1.03	0.75
1931	6807	7007	10	6	16
% of total married			0.15	0.09	0.12

This Table shows that divorces have increased in both number and in their proportion to the total number of married persons.

In 1951 as compared with 1931 there was an eleven-fold increase in the number of divorced persons and a six-fold increase in the proportion of the divorced to the total married persons.

In 1931 the ratio of divorced males to females was nearly 2 to 1: in 1951 there was a complete reversal of this ratio, the number of divorced females being more than double that of males.

HOUSING CONDITIONS IN ALL PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

(A Private Household being a Private Family or a Private Group living as a Family)

Increase in the Number of Households 1931/51.

The private households which numbered 7,925 in 1931 increased to a total of 13,445 in 1951.

The size of the households was as follows:-

Year	Number of Persons					Families
	1	2/4	5	6/7	8 or more	
1951	1245	10017	1291	734	158	13445
1931	427	5308	1052	838	300	7925

It is a very striking fact that nearly 10 per cent of the total households now consist of one person. This is double the percentage of those living a solitary domestic life in 1931. This trend has been operating since the turn of the century and is likely to continue. The Census also reveals that about one quarter of these one person households live in one or two rooms.

The Tendency towards smaller Families.

The fall in the size of families has continued. The average number in a family which was 4.17 in 1921 fell to 3.72 in 1931 and is now 3.19 persons.

A further indication of this occurrence is the increase in families of three or fewer persons from 52 per cent to 63 per cent in the intercensal period, whilst there has been a decrease in families of six or more persons from 14 to 6 per cent (1931/51). It is also startling to find that 37 per cent of the total Households consisted of 1 or 2 persons in 1951.

Size of homes: Rooms (Bathroom, kitchen and scullery excluded).

The percentage of households living in 1 and 2 rooms has fallen from 8 per cent to 5 per cent in the twenty year period 1931 to 1951. The three-roomed home forms the same proportion of the total homes as it did in 1931, in which year over half the homes consisted of 4 or 5 rooms: this size of house now predominates, forming about three quarters of the total. The larger home of six or more rooms is going out of favour, some have been converted into flats: others are shared by more than one family and a few demolished but there has been no great decrease in their number. Their proportionate decrease from 32 to 13 per cent of the total homes has come about, largely, as a result of the increase in new buildings of smaller size.

DENSITY OF OCCUPATION: EVIDENCE OF IMPROVEMENT

New Houses.

Improving housing conditions and the tendency to a smaller size of family, has led to considerable lessening in the congestion of households in spite of the fact that the average number of rooms per dwelling has fallen from 5.28 to 4.84.

Persons per Rooms.

The average number of persons per room was 0.83 in 1921, falling to 0.75 in 1931 and to 0.69 in 1951.

POPULATION AT SUCCESSIVE DENSITIES OF OCCUPATION

Year	Persons per Room					Total
	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less	
1931						
Number	303	958	2581	5247	19960	29059
Percentage	1.0	3.3	8.9	18.8	68.7	
1951						
Number	86	305	1486	5802	35218	42898
Percentage	0.2	0.7	3.5	13.5	82.1	

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AT SUCCESSIVE DENSITIES OF OCCUPATION

Year	Persons per Room				
	Over 3	3 & over 2	2 & over 1½	1½ & over 1	1 or less
Percentage 1951	0.1	0.4	1.8	7.8	89.9
Percentage 1931	2.81				

DENSITY OVER 2 PERSONS PER ROOM

1. Families.

In 1931 nearly six out of every 200 families were living at a density of more than 2 persons per room. The number in this category had fallen to less than 1 in 200 by 1951.

2. Persons.

Furthermore, there is now less than one person out of every 100 living in such congested conditions compared to 4 in 1931, and 82 per cent of the people are now living at a density of less than one person per room as compared with 68 per cent in 1931.

Without assuming what should be a standard of overcrowding these figures indicate the improvement that has taken place in the worst housed families.

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN SHARED DWELLINGS COMPARED WITH ALL HOUSEHOLDS

(Private Households are Private Families
and Private Groups Living as a Family)

The number of dwellings shared by two or more households was 483 in 1931 and 469 in 1951, the percentages to the total number of dwellings being 6.4 in 1931 and 3.6 in 1951.

The following Table for 1951 illustrates the more adverse housing conditions of families which had to share a dwelling.

HOUSEHOLDS 1951

	Number	Percentage of Total	Average No. of Persons per room	Percentage Living more than 2 persons per room	Rooms Occupied Percentage of Households Occupying			
					1	2	3	4 or more
All households	13445		0.69	0.5	1	4	8	87
Households sharing a Dwelling	1028	7.6	0.84	2.4	9	39	27	25

Over 7 per cent of the total households are sharing a dwelling.

About half the families sharing a dwelling are living in 1 or 2 rooms, which is ten times more than the proportion of all households occupying the same number of rooms.

Serious overcrowding is five times greater among the sharing households, the majority of which have either to share or are devoid of certain household amenities and are, relatively, very much worse off in this respect than in all households.

HOUSEHOLDS SHARING OR WITHOUT SOME FACILITIES

	Piped Water Within the Dwelling %	Cooking Stove With Oven %	Kitchen Sink with Drainage %	Water Closet %	Fixed Bath with drainage %	With all 5 Arrangements %
All Households	10	4	5	6	40	58
Households sharing a Dwelling	68	51	57	69	86	10

It will be noted that the greatest deficiency is that of the fixed bath.

In respect of all households 58 per cent have all five arrangements: 30 per cent have no bath or share a bath but have the other 4 arrangements.

The domestic facilities in shared households are lacking to a much greater extent.

Conclusion.

In conclusion I would like to express to all members of the Staff my appreciation of the valuable assistance which they have given in the Department during the year, and to thank the Chairmen and Members of Committees for their most helpful support and consideration.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) Land and Inland Water	4,378	
Population - Census									
1951, (R-G. Kent Report)	43934								
Estimated R-G. (Mid. 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,860	
Number of houses inhabited (end 1953) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,879	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£319,686	
Sum representing a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,246	
Number of houses built during 1953 - Corporation	402)							455	
Private Enterprise	53)								
TOTAL BIRTHS. (Live and Still)									
Live Births.	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Total	M.	F.	Total
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	758	391	367)	792
Still Births.	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	34	18	16)	
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	12	5	7)	14
		...	...	...	...	2	1	1)	
Birth Rate per 1,000 persons living... (crude)...									17.65
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 persons living...									0.31
TOTAL DEATHS - All causes at all ages									406
Death Rate per 1,000 persons living... (crude)...									9.05
Deaths from Puerperal Causes									Nil
Natural increase in population (excess Births over Deaths)									386

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Total Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths is shown on pages 13-14.

The following Table shows a comparison between this district and other parts of England and Wales.

	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 resi- dent population	Deaths per 1,000 population	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 registered live births
England and Wales	15.5	11.4	26.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	17.0	12.2	30.8
160 smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at Census 1951)	15.7	11.3	24.3
London	17.5	12.5	24.8
ROCHESTER	* 17.3	* 9.41	21.4

*(crude rates adjusted for comparability purposes)

PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH

		Percentage of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Circulatory system including Heart Disease and Cerebral Haemorrhage	156	38.4
Cancer	78	19.2
Respiratory Diseases:-		
Pneumonia (all forms)	19)	
Bronchitis	18)	40
Others	3)	9.8
Tuberculosis (all forms)	7	
Deaths from all causes	406	1.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY - BIRTH AND STILL BIRTH RATE

Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births, and births per 1,000 persons living -

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Infant Mortality...	75.6	47.0	36.2	60.6	27.6	32.2	35.06	40.1	24.4	21.4
Birth Rate	23.9	22.2	23.49	23.1	20.8	18.16	15.2	16.54	15.62	17.65
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still)...	18.0	32.0	20.0	24.0	22.0	23.0	19.4	28.2	23.8	17.3

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Cause	Neo-Natal Deaths						Deaths over 4 weeks				
	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Premature Birth	4	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	6
Injury at Birth	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Marasmus, Inanition	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Congenital Deformity	2	2	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Bronchitis	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Gastro-enteritis	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Other Causes... ..	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Total...	6	4	1	-	-	11	3	1	-	2	17

CHILD MORTALITY

	1951	1952	1953
Number of deaths of children aged 1 - 5 years	7	3	1

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Total Deaths under 1 month of age	11 (1952 - 8)
Death Rate of children under 1 month of age per 1,000 births	13.8 (1952 - 11.4)

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS IN WARDS

St. Margaret's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
St. Peter's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Troy Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
St. Nicholas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Strood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Temple	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Frindsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

There are 23 doctors resident in the area (excluding St. Bartholomew's Hospital) who are engaged in private practice.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following Table shows the number of specimens submitted to the Kent County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, for examination and results.

		Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs	Diphtheria Bacilli	)	33	33
	Haemolytic Streptococci)	-	
Sputum	Tubercle Bacilli			
	Chest Physician	57	169	226
	General Practitioners	5	38	43
Faeces	? Dysentery, Typhoid Group, Food Poisoning, etc.	55	112	167
Ice Cream		-		70
Milk Bacteriological Examinations				161
Milk Biological Examinations				7
Water Bacteriological Examinations				86
Blood Counts				590
Miscellaneous Examinations				516
Swimming Bath Water Bacteriological Examinations				46

In addition a few specimens from medical practitioners are dealt with in the Pathological Department of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Depot, King Edward Road, Rochester. Telephone Chatham 3540.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME

In addition to the nursing services provided by the Kent County Council, nursing

in the home is provided by the Watts's District Nursing Service, The Almshouses, Maidstone Road, Rochester. (Telephone Chatham 2335).

The number of patients visited during the year by Watts's Nurses was 80 and the total number of visits 14,563.

5. MIDWIFERY SERVICE

There are six County midwives and one independent midwife serving the Rochester area.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

District Office, 13, Gun Lane, Strood. Telephone Chatham 7451.

7. HOSPITALS

St. William's Hospital. Telephone Chatham 3243.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Telephone Chatham 4278.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Situation	By whom provided
Ante Natal	Strood Institution on Thursday mornings) "Elm House" New Road Avenue, Chatham, 2nd) and 4th Tuesday mornings.)	Kent County Council
Infant Welfare	St. Stephen's Hall, Wallace Road, Roch-) ester, on Friday afternoons.) Strood Institution on Tuesday afternoons) and Friday mornings.) Belsey Hall, Rochester, on Tuesday after-) noons.)	
Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination	Strood Institution I.W. Clinic on 2nd) Thursday in the month.) St. Stephen's Hall on 1st Tuesday morning) each month.)	
Diphtheria Immunisation only	School Clinic, Rochester on Tuesday af-) ternoons.)	
Chest Clinic	13, New Road, Rochester.)	
Venereal Diseases	35, New Road, Rochester.)	
Orthopaedic; Radium and X-ray; Ultra Violet Light; Ear, Nose and Throat; Ophthalmic; Skin Diseases; Paedi- atrics.	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.))))))	
		South East Metro- politan Regional Hospital Board.

NURSING HOMES

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

There are two registered nursing homes, one with four maternity beds and one with nine maternity beds and nine beds for general cases. The Homes are visited regularly by the Medical Officer of Health.

The number of maternity cases admitted during the year was 152 of which 55 were Rochester residents. The number of general cases was 35 of which 7 were Rochester residents.

C. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) 1953

	Total	Number of Cases in Age Groups					Total Notified in each Locality		No. removed to Hospital	Deaths
		0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65+	South	North		
Scarlet Fever ...	44	9	33	2	-	-	22	22	1	-
Pneumonia ...	87	20	13	11	24	19	50	37	-	19
Food Poisoning ^o ...	5	-	2	2	1	-	4	1	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	89	56	31	2	-	-	66	23	-	-
Measles ...	936	427	481	28	-	-	551	385	2	-
Erysipelas ...	12	-	-	4	7	1	4	8	-	-
ac. Poliomyelitis*	6	1	2	3	-	-	6	-	5	1
Meningococcal Meningitis...	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery % ...	25	11	9	2	-	3	19	6	14	-
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	1206	525	571	55	32	23	724	482	22	20

* 2 non-paralytic
% 9 non-resident

^o 1 Family Outbreak and two single cases.
No Pathogens isolated.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DIVIDED INTO WARDS

	Frindsbury	Troy Town	St. Peter	St. Margaret	St. Nicholas	Strood	Temple
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	3	1	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever...	9	-	15	3	3	3	10
Pneumonia ...	11	5	21	20	4	6	20
Whooping Cough ...	10	1	55	7	3	8	5
Measles ...	80	44	279	170	58	92	213
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ac. Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	4	-	2	-	-
Erysipelas ...	2	-	1	1	2	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery ^o ...	1	-	17	1	1	2	3
Total	113	50	397	203	74	113	256

^o 9 non-resident

ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL
(ISOLATION BLOCK)

Table showing Numbers and Types of Admissions

	Rochester	Chatham	Other Authorities	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	2	1	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	3	-	4	7
Measles	3	6	6	15
Whooping Cough... ..	-	3	-	3
Dysentery... ..	5	-	7	12
Pneumonia... ..	-	3	-	3
Erysipelas	-	1	-	1
Others	9	10	18	37
Total	21	25	36	82

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the following cases have been protected against Diphtheria:-

Under 5 years 376
 5 - 14 years 31
 Reinforcing dose... .. 359

Total number of children immunised at any time up to 31.12.53 - 8643.

Year of Birth	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	597	691	568	619	709	641	670	767	527	604	577	517
			1950	1951	1952	1953	Total					
			406	396	307	47	8643					

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following cases were vaccinated against smallpox during 1953:-

Age at 31/12/1953	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	213	143	12	5	373
Number re-vaccinated		3	15	37	55

SCABIES TREATMENT

The number of cases treated in the last five years are as follows:-

1953 1952 1951 1950 1949
 Nil 4 3 2 12

BUG INFESTATION

35 infested houses were dealt with during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Total number of rats destroyed	745	994	1373	702	1203	1497	1546
Total number of mice destroyed	141	205	186	372	497	593	273

CANCER

Year	Deaths 1944 - 1953			*Death rate per 1,000 persons living
	Male	Female	Total	
1944	42	38	80	2.3
1945	33	25	58	1.6
1946	36	36	72	1.8
1947	32	31	63	1.6
1948	38	21	59	1.4
1949	36	46	82	1.9
1950	51	32	83	1.9
1951	54	29	83	1.9
1952	54	38	92	2.06
1953	43	35	78	1.73

CANCER MORTALITY ACCORDING TO AGE AND SITE

Site	1 - 5		5 - 15		15 - 25		25 - 45		45 - 65		65+		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	2	6	6	8
Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	6	-	15	-
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4
Other...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	3	14	14	22	19

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1953

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- 5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	4	8	-	1	1	1	-	-
35-45	5	4	-	-	-	1	-	-
45-55	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	7	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
65+	3	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Total	28	28	5	1	4	3	-	-

NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS WERE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS: -

					South	North	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	-	-	-

					Pulmonary T.B.		Non-Pulmonary T.B.	
					Notified	Died	Notified	Died
Average for the preceeding 5 years...	...	...	...	...	47	16	10	2
1953...	...	...	...	...	56	7	6	-

The following information has been kindly supplied by Dr. S. Roy C. Price, the Chest Physician for this District -

Particulars of the patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the Rochester Chest Clinic during 1953. -

New Patients	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals			
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children	
Defined T. B.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Defined Non-T. B.	24	28	5	4	2	2	3	-	161	178	122	74
	Totals								187	208	130	78

Total attendances = 1,817

Number of patients admitted to Institutions .. 62

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS, DEATHS AND DEATH RATES 1944 - 1953

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		
	Notifications	Deaths	Death Rate	Notifications	Deaths	Death Rate
1944 ...	77	22	0.6	19	6	0.2
1945 ...	51	35	1.0	15	3	0.08
1946 ...	55	23	0.6	8	2	0.05
1947 ...	34	21	0.52	15	2	0.05
1948 ...	27	16	0.38	10	3	0.07
1949 ...	56	30	0.7	10	4	0.09
1950 ...	40	8	0.19	10	1	0.02
1951 ...	63	17	0.39	10	3	0.068
1952 ...	47	9	0.2	8	1	0.022
1953 ...	56	7	0.15	6	.	-

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

At the 31st December, 1953, there were 395 cases on the Register.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Sessions are held at the Special Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Mondays from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on other days by appointment. This information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, through the Public and Port Health Departments, Doctors, Nurses and other Clinics.

The Clinic is conducted by C. D. Routh, Esq., M.D., and serves a considerable area.

The following information has been kindly supplied by Dr. C.D. Routh:-

NEW PATIENTS.	ROCHESTER.	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	3	5	8
Chancroid...	...	1	-	-
Gonorrhoea	...	7	2	9
Non-venereal	...	32	6	38

NEW PATIENTS. ROCHESTER. (Cont'd.)

Total

Total number of new patients from all districts served...	298
Attendances of Rochester patients ...	912
Total attendances of patients from all districts ...	3715

NEW PATIENTS ATTENDING VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC
AND TOTAL ATTENDANCES FROM (a) ROCHESTER (b) ALL DISTRICTS

1935 - 1953

	1935-1939 Average No. per annum	1940-1944 Average No. per annum	1945-1949 Average No. per annum	1950-1953 Average No. per annum
1. New Patients				
(a) ROCHESTER				
Diagnosed Venereal Disease...	43	35	25	15
Diagnosed Non-Venereal Disease ...	27	34	46	42
(b) ALL DISTRICTS	not available	426	385	295
2. Attendances				
(a) ROCHESTER PATIENTS ...	2641	1316	1057	906
(b) All Districts Served ...	not available	8481	6021	4216

DISCHARGES FROM ALL DISTRICTS COVERED

Discharged cured:-

Syphilis	22
Gonorrhoea	32
Non-Venereal	196

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE

Syphilis	3
Gonorrhoea	13

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT

Syphilis	3
Gonorrhoea	-

AGED PERSONS

It was found necessary for the Local Authority to take action under the National Assistance Acts, 1948/1951 in respect of two aged persons.

Case 1. Female aged 90 years. Feeble and decrepit, mentally confused, afflicted with a large hernia and, on account of her physical and mental infirmity was liable to accidental injury from a fall or fire. Housing conditions were insanitary and she was not receiving proper care and attention nor able to care for herself. Had refused many offers of admission to hospital. Re-sented visits by her relatives. Original Order was made on the application of the Medical Officer of Health for three weeks and, subsequently, extended to three months on the application of the Council. Admitted to Hospital.

Case 2. Female aged 80 years, living with a married granddaughter, who had a large family, in insanitary conditions. Bedridden, incontinent and very feeble. Not receiving proper care and attention. Similar action was taken as in Case 1. and patient was removed to hospital.

1953 ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION OBSERVATIONS ROCHESTER & CHATHAM

STROOD CEMETERY

MONTH	Rainfall during month Inches	Mean Rain Fall	Prevailing Wind	Monthly Deposit in Tons per Square Mile							Milligrammes SO ₃ per 100 sq. centimetres Lead Peroxide	pH Value	
				Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	Water Insoluble Matter		Water Soluble Matter				
							Soluble in Carbon Bisulphide	Ash	Other Combustible matter	Calcium Chlorides			Sulphates
January	0.81	0.935	S to W	5.57	7.99	13.55	0.07	4.51	1.09	1.75	4.11	1.23	6.0
February	1.27	1.185	S to W	7.06	7.55	14.51	0.13	5.43	1.49	1.75	2.95	1.01	7.0
March	0.235	0.2375	N to E	5.95	3.58	10.54	0.07	5.14	1.75	0.80	1.69	1.78	5.5
April	2.11	2.215	S to W	7.39	8.85	15.24	0.07	6.05	1.25	0.27	3.15	0.71	5.8
May	1.73	1.81	S to W	8.42	5.59	15.01	0.13	5.77	2.52	2.02	2.82	0.54	5.7
June	1.545	2.021	S to W	7.39	5.99	14.38	0.07	5.53	1.59	2.02	2.92	0.52	6.8
July	3.915	3.42	S to W	5.15	9.01	15.18	0.07	4.94	1.15	2.72	2.29	0.33	7.0
August	1.29	1.32	S to W	8.85	5.73	15.58	0.10	5.53	2.22	1.92	2.88	0.57	7.1
September	2.71	2.785	S to W	9.71	11.27	20.98	0.07	7.52	2.02	2.75	3.91	0.80	7.1
October	2.20	2.37	S to W	11.07	13.99	25.05	0.13	7.82	3.12	3.31	5.47	1.01	7.0
November	0.92	1.08	S to W	5.97	8.52	14.58	0.03	4.77	1.15	2.22	4.08	1.18	7.1
December	0.755	0.74	S to W	7.55	10.21	17.87	0.07	5.87	1.72	2.55	4.81	1.48	7.0

ALL SAINTS HOSPITAL

January	1.05	0.935	S to W	6.55	7.62	14.18	0.13	4.77	1.55	1.55	3.71	1.52	6.0
February	1.10	1.185	S to W	5.55	5.37	12.03	0.17	4.31	3.09	1.23	2.05	1.07	5.5
March	0.24	0.2375	N to E	4.04	8.09	12.13	0.07	2.82	1.15	1.89	4.34	1.45	5.0
April	2.32	2.215	S to W	7.35	5.30	13.65	0.13	4.51	2.72	0.95	2.15	0.71	6.2
May	1.89	1.81	S to W	5.40	4.44	10.84	0.10	4.44	1.86	1.03	1.52	0.46	5.5
June	2.38	2.021	S to W	8.62	7.82	16.44	0.13	5.83	2.65	1.75	2.58	0.47	5.3
July	2.93	3.42	S to W	5.20	5.34	10.54	0.07	3.58	1.45	0.95	1.03	0.40	6.6
August	1.35	1.32	S to W	5.10	4.31	10.41	0.10	3.98	2.02	0.30	1.49	0.58	6.2
September	2.85	2.785	S to W	6.33	7.42	13.75	0.09	3.91	3.32	1.59	1.89	0.56	5.4
October	2.54	2.37	S to W	4.87	7.79	12.56	0.10	3.15	1.52	1.19	3.08	0.94	5.0
November	1.25	1.08	S to W	5.73	5.97	11.70	0.03	4.14	1.55	1.49	3.58	1.53	5.4
December	0.73	0.74	S to W	5.93	5.63	11.58	0.07	4.34	1.52	1.33	3.15	1.55	5.0

FORT PITT SCHOOL

January	1.05	0.935	S to W	5.86	11.73	18.59	0.10	5.0	1.75	2.82	5.87	1.52	6.4
February	1.10	1.185	S to W	6.93	5.59	13.52	0.13	4.74	2.05	1.35	3.85	1.17	5.8
March	0.24	0.2375	N to E	5.37	5.53	10.90	0.07	3.88	1.43	1.19	2.83	1.20	5.1
April	2.32	2.215	S to W	5.10	6.36	11.47	0.10	3.51	1.39	1.33	2.09	0.72	6.5
May	1.89	1.81	S to W	7.55	5.53	14.18	0.20	5.47	1.89	1.55	2.55	0.41	7.0
June	2.38	2.021	S to W	9.74	7.99	17.73	0.13	7.13	2.49	2.05	3.38	0.45	5.8
July	2.93	3.42	S to W	5.97	6.73	12.59	0.07	4.44	1.45	1.85	1.92	0.45	7.1
August	1.35	1.32	S to W	5.85	5.57	12.43	0.10	4.74	2.02	1.52	2.22	0.53	5.8
September	2.85	2.785	S to W	5.87	8.32	14.18	0.07	4.21	1.59	1.79	2.52	0.65	7.1
October	2.54	2.37	S to W	7.25	12.73	20.25	0.10	5.30	2.12	3.42	5.00	1.05	6.8
November	1.25	1.08	S to W	4.47	6.63	11.10	0.03	3.41	1.03	1.49	3.05	1.33	6.2
												1.54	6.2

NO. OF PREMISES IN THE CITY AT WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED FOR CONSUMPTION BY THE
PUBLIC, AND SHOPS ETC. AT WHICH FOOD IS DEPOSITED OR EXPOSED FOR SALE TO
THE PUBLIC (CLASSIFIED IN THE TYPE OF THE BUSINESS CONDUCTED
AT THE PREMISES)

Hotels)	
Cafes)	32
Snack Bars)	
Canteens	18
Dairies	4
Butchers	36
Bakers & Confectioners (including bakehouses)	14
Fried Fish Shops	16
Fishmongers (wet and dried)	6
Grocers, General Shops & Sweet Confectionery	179
Greengrocers	33
Mineral Water Manufactory	2
Ice-Cream Manufactory	1
Public Houses	113

In addition ice cream is sold in wrapped form only at 120 of the various types of food premises listed above.

NO OF FOOD PREMISES, BY TYPE OF BUSINESS, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 AND/OR THE ROCHESTER CORPORATION ACT, 1936

1. The manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream

(a) Manufacturers	1
(b) Other premises and/or vendors registered under the Rochester Corporation Act for the sale of ice-cream mainly in wrapped form only	162

Note Of the 162 registrations, a number of the persons registered have a seasonal sale only.

2. The preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food:

(a) Butchers	27
(b) Other Food Shops	Nil

Routine inspections of the registered premises and all food premises indicated that, generally, due observance was being made to the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act and in no case was it necessary to take formal action for the remedy of defects or unsatisfactory conditions at the premises. Informal notices to the total of 53 and personal talks with the persons concerned in the food trade etc. have achieved the improvements required.

DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Whilst no specially arranged talks have been given by the Inspectorial Staff, every opportunity is taken by the Inspectors when visiting the various food premises to give advice etc. with regard to food hygiene and handling.

NO. OF INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES MADE, ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF BUSINESS
CARRIED ON

Bakehouses	34
Slaughterhouses	550
Ice-Cream Premises	170
Dairies & Milk Shops	157
Fried Fish Shops	46

NO. OF INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES MADE ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF BUSINESS
CARRIED ON (Cont d.)

Food Preparing Premises (Canteens, Hotels, Cafes, etc.)	134
Other Food Premises (Grocers, general shops, greengrocers, etc.)	483
Market Stalls at which food is sold	742
Total ...	2316

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

(a) Meat and offals from slaughterhouses and butchers shops etc.:

by collection for processing and sterilizing for industrial purposes.

(b) Other Foods

(i) by processing for animal feeding

(ii) by burying in the Corporation Refuse Tip.

EXAMINATION OF SPECIAL CONSIGNMENTS OF FOOD FOLLOWING A REPRESENTATION OR
COMPLAINT AS TO ITS SOUNDNESS, AND/OR SUITABILITY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

No special consignments of food have called for examination and inspection during the year, but small quantities have been retained to await result of the chemical analysis of the food following complaints from the shopkeepers and/or customers.

ANTE-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF ANIMALS

An ante mortem examination is made by a fully qualified Veterinary Surgeon of all animals sent in to the Ministry of Food Collecting Centre, for grading and allocation prior to slaughter at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse.

There will be no alteration in the present procedure upon de-control of Meat and Livestock by the Ministry of Food in July, 1954, and all animals sent into Rochester Market will be subject to ante-mortem inspection by the same fully qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

(i) The Corporation Water Works for the supply of the Strood area on the North side of the River Medway. The source of this water supply is from wells in the chalk in Strood to which was added, in 1942, an additional supply from deep chalk wells in Cuxton.

A new borehole and high lift pump has been in operation since March, 1952.

(ii) The Chatham and District Water Company supplies the rest of the City to the South. This supply is from wells in the chalk and Greensand.

Both supplies are chlorinated.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

	Rochester Corporation Supply	Chatham & District Supply	Total
Raw Water	19	-	19
Treated Water	19	25	45
	38	25	64

In addition there were 6 chemical analyses of the Rochester Corporation raw water supply.

208 samples of the Chatham and District Water supply were submitted by the Chatham & District Water Company for bacteriological examination and the results forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

The following is a copy of a chemical analysis of untreated water taken from the Rochester Corporation supply in September, 1953.

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	49.9
Chlorides (as Cl)	9.0
Free Chlorine... ..	Nil
Temporary Hardness... ..	26.5
Non-carbonate Hardness	7.3
Total Hardness	33.8
Nitrites (as N)	Nil
Nitrates (as N)	0.9
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.002
Turbidity in terms of Silica... ..	0.12
Colour, mm. Burgess scale	Trace

The water is supplied direct to all houses.

Well Water. Five samples were taken from privately owned wells.

SWIMMING POOL

During the bathing season the water in the swimming pool is frequently submitted for bacteriological examination. The pool is owned by the Local Authority and the water is chlorinated and filtered continuously. During 1953, 16 samples were taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During 1953, 23 existing properties were connected to the sewer and the cess-pools abolished.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection and disposal is under the control of the City Surveyor. Refuse is collected once a week and, at the present time, is dealt with by controlled tipping on Temple Marsh. Salvage (paper) is collected once weekly.

E. CAUSES OF DEATHS IN ROCHESTER

		M.	F.
	All Causes	198	208
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Ac. Poliomyelitis... ..	1	-
8.	Measles... ..	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach... ..	6	8
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	19
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN ROCHESTER (Cont' d.)

		M.	F.
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	34
18.	Coronary disease, angina	41	20
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
20.	Other heart diseases	25	53
21.	Other circulatory diseases	5	7
22.	Influenza	3	3
23.	Pneumonia	9	10
24.	Bronchitis	14	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	4	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	7	-
34.	All other accidents	3	6
35.	Suicide	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

Total	17
Legitimate	17
Illegitimate	-

Live Births:

Total	792
Legitimate	758
Illegitimate	34

Stillbirths:

Total	14
Legitimate	12
Illegitimate	2

POPULATION 44860

F. CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1953.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

Your Worship and Gentlemen:

I beg to submit my fifteenth annual report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

COMPLAINTS

1040 complaints were received in the Department during the year as compared with 971 in 1952.

CLEARANCE AREAS

The following houses were made the subject of Clearance Area action by the Council during the year:-

Clearance Area No. 4	Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, Almon Place, Rochester. 7 houses.
Clearance Area No. 5a	Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24a, 28 and 30, Gravel Walk, Rochester. Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17, Cazeneuve Street, Rochester. Nos. 21, 21a, 23, 23a, 25 and 27, King Street, Rochester. 26 houses.
Clearance Area No. 5b	Nos. 21 and 23, Cazeneuve Street, Rochester. 2 houses.
Clearance Area No. 6a	Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Doggett Square, Strood. 3 houses.
Clearance Area No. 6b	Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Doggett Square, Strood. Nos. 5 and 7, Canal Road, Strood. 7 houses.
Clearance Area No. 7a	Nos. 1 - 15 (consec.) Newark Street, Strood. Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7, Station Road, Strood. Nos. 1 - 16 (consec.) Friary Place, Strood. 35 houses.
Clearance Area No. 7b	Nos. 18, 19 and 20, Friary Place, Strood. 3 houses.
Clearance Area No. 8a	No. 8, Station Road, Strood. Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, Pearson Street, Strood. 7 houses.
Clearance Area No. 8b	No. 9, Station Road, Strood. Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12, Pearson Street, Strood. Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, Marsh Street, Strood. 14 houses.

The total number of houses subjected to Clearance Area procedure was 104.

The Public Enquiries relating to the above-mentioned areas were held by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and at the end of the year the following areas had been confirmed by the Ministry:

Almon Place Clearance Area No. 4 Clearance Order, 1953.	Confirmed without modification 11th September, 1953.
Doggett Square Clearance Area No. 6A Clearance Order, 1953.	Confirmed without modification 11th September, 1953.

Doggett Square Clearance Area No.
6B Clearance Order, 1953.

Confirmed without modification
11th September, 1953.

DEMOLITION ORDERS

The following 9 houses were subjected to demolition orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 during the year:-

355, High Street, Rochester.	40, John Street, Rochester.
1. Hoopers Road, Rochester.	2, 4, 10 and 12, Miles Place, Rochester.
2. Hulkes Lane Rochester.	1, Morden Street, Rochester.

An undertaking to keep closed was accepted by the council in relation to Nos. 1 & 2, Factory Cottages, Wickham, Strood.

CLOSING ORDERS

3 Closing Orders respecting 262, High Street, Rochester, 274, High Street, Rochester (top flat) and 353 High Street, Rochester, were made under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, during the year.

DEMOLITIONS

19 houses under Housing Act Demolition Orders were demolished during the year:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Almon Place, Rochester.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Butchers Court, Rochester.
109a, High Street, Strood.
9, King Street, Rochester.
6 and 8, Miles Place, Rochester.

In addition the demolition of the houses in the Balls Square Clearance Area No. 3 Clearance Order, 1952 was commenced before the end of the year.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Repairs and improvements to the total of 1666 were affected under the Inspectors' direction and supervision throughout the year. The details of the various repairs, etc., carried out are given in the following list:-

Premises (existing) connected to foul water sewer...	23
Drainage entirely reconstructed ...	8
Drainage partly reconstructed ...	15
Defective drains repaired ...	8
Defective inspection chambers and covers ...	7
Drains unstopped and cleansed...	341
New ventilated soil pipes fixed ...	0
New ventshafts fixed ...	2
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s ...	4
Insufficient W.C. accommodation ...	4
New W.C. apartments built ...	4
W.C.'s provided with pans and traps ...	14
Urinals constructed and improved ...	1
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s...	9
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed ...	35
New sinks fixed ...	7
New lavatory basins and baths fixed ...	1
Trapped wastepipes fixed ...	11
Cesspools abolished...	17
Water tests applied...	29
Smoke tests applied...	23

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses demolished:	
(Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 11) - 19; Voluntarily demolished - 0)	19
No. of houses closed upon undertaking by owners	2
Parts of buildings closed (Housing Act, 1936 Sec. 12)	3
Dangerous walls reconstructed and underpinned...	7
Roofs repairs	69
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	74
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	49
Damp walls remedied	130
Yard Paving repaved or repaired (Repaved 0)	
(Repaired 9)	9
Defective floors repaired...	24
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	167
Dirty walls cleansed...	49
Dirty ceilings cleansed	25
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	47
Defective windows repaired (woodwork, glazing and sashcords)	140
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	13
Handrails provided to staircases	6
Ventilated food stores provided or improved	1
Washing coppers provided or repaired	10
Sanitary dustbins provided	66
Instances of overcrowding abated	21
Verminous rooms disinfested	95
Dirty houses cleansed (tenant's neglect)	5
Nuisances from animals abated	1
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	6
Wasps nests destroyed	12
Miscellaneous defects remedied	128
Total	1666

NOTICES SERVED

Informal notices issued (written and verbal)	748
Informal notices complied with...	613
Statutory notices served	51
Statutory notices complied with:	
(a) by owners or occupiers	39
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	
or occupier	15

(includes notices served in 1952 and complied with in 1953)

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

1,594 loads were pumped from cesspools in the City as against 2,259 in 1952. Of the total number of loads pumped, 1,235 loads were taken from foul water cesspools.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS

95 rooms in 35 houses (Corporation houses 16, Requisitioned houses 1, Privately owned houses 18) were subjected to disinfestation treatment for the destruction of vermin. In all cases the premises were treated by thorough spraying with an insecticide incorporating D.D.T.

In addition to the foregoing, action was also taken, in co-operation with the Housing Manager, from whom a list of allocations for Council Houses is received each week, to inspect and treat the tenants' furniture before removal where vermin infestation is suspected.

During the year the furniture at 7 households was subjected to disinfestation treatment before removal to the Council Houses concerned.

FOOD INSPECTION

2,326 visits were paid by the Inspectors to the various premises associated with the sale and production of food. Of this number 550 were visits to the Government Slaughterhouse in the City for the purpose of examining carcasses, etc., at the time of slaughter. The number of carcasses etc examined during the year was 8 753 as compared with 9,554 in 1952.

The following tabulated statement indicates the kind of carcasses inspected and the number found upon inspection to be diseased or unsound:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	1565	566	1435	5183	4
No. inspected... ..	1565	566	1435	5183	4
<i>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</i>					
Whole carcase condemned... ..	5	2	3	30	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	427	141	1	259	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	27.60	25.26	0.27	5.57	0
<i>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	10	2	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	139	174	5	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.13	32.50	0.48	0	0

The following table shows the number of carcasses excluding pigs, inspected in Rochester together with the percentages of the carcasses found to be affected with Tuberculosis and other diseases or conditions, during the two years prior to 1939 as compared with the figures for 1952/53.

	No. of Carcasses inspected				Percentage of the Carcasses inspected found to be affected with disease							
	Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1952	Year 1953	Tuberculosis				Diseases other than Tuberculosis			
					Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1952	Year 1953	Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1952	Year 1953
Cows	6	9	755	566	55.5	11.1	32.98	32.50	0	11.1	30.9	25.26
Cattle excluding cows	217	365	1825	1565	8.3	8.8	8.65	9.13	7.8	9.0	34.08	27.60
Calves	88	101	1686	1435	0	0	0.77	0.48	4.5	1.98	0.65	0.27
Sheep and Lambs..	8332	12984	5283	5183	0	0	0	0	2.8	2.88	5.81	5.57

The total amount of all foods found to be diseased or unsound during the year weighed 18 tons, 1 cwt., 0 qtrs., 9 lbs. This amount was made up as follows, and the details of the unfit food surrendered are shown below:

Diseased or Unsound Meat	...	...	...	15 tons, 1 cwt., 0 qrs., 2 lbs.
Other Foods	...	...	...	3 tons, 0 cwt., 0 qrs., 7 lbs.

FOOD CONDEMNED

12	carcases and offals of cows	...	...	10 Generalised Tuberculosis, 2 Dropsy and Emaciation.
9	steers	...	...	4 Generalised Tuberculosis, 1 Septicaemia, 2 Dropsy and Emaciation, 1 Fevered, 1 Septic Pleurisy.
5	calves	...	...	2 Generalised Tuberculosis. 2 Pyaemia, 1 Fevered and ill-bled.
30	sheep	...	...	18 Emaciation and Dropsy, 2 Fevered and ill-bled, 1 Septic Pleurisy, 5 Septicaemia, 3 Mutilation, 1 Moribund.
15	forequarters of cows	...	...	Tuberculosis.
1	forequarter of steer	...	...	DD
4	forequarters of heifers	...	...	DD
1	hindquarter of steer	...	...	DD
1	hindquarter of heifer	...	...	DD
488	bovine livers	...	...	164 Cirrhosis, 106 Multiple Abscesses, 103 Cavernous Angioma, 79 Flukes, 36 Tuberculosis.
227	bovine heads and tongues	...	...	193 Tuberculosis, 34 Actinomycosis.
270	bovine lungs	...	...	237 Tuberculosis, 12 Parasitic, 12 Putrefaction, 5 Congestion, 3 Cystic, 1 Melanosis.
45	cows' udders	...	...	Putrefaction.
18	bovine stomachs	...	...	15 Tuberculosis, 3 Johne's Disease.
4	calf plucks...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
24	sheep plucks	...	...	23 Parasitic, 1 Abscesses.
233	sheep livers	...	...	231 Parasitic, 2 Abscesses.
2	calf livers...	...	...	1 Tuberculosis, 1 Abscesses.
15	bovine spleens	...	...	Putrefaction.
2	sheep heads and tongues	...	...	1 Parasitic, 1 Abscesses.
82	lbs. hindquarter beef	...	...	Bone taint
44	lbs. forequarter beef	...	...	DD DD
188	lbs. caul fat	...	...	Putrefaction.
8	lbs. pork	...	...	Bruising.
81	lbs. mutton	...	...	DD
4	lbs. almonds, ground	...	...	Unsound.
12	lbs. bacon	...	...	DD
3	lbs. beef	...	...	DD
36	lbs. biscuits	...	...	DD
21½	lbs. brawn (tinned)	...	...	DD
5	lbs. cake	...	...	DD
22	lbs. cheese (processed)	...	...	DD
8	lbs. cheese trimmings	...	...	DD
38	lbs. cobnuts	...	...	DD
2	tins coffee	...	...	DD
17	tubes confectionery icing	...	...	DD
237½	lbs. corned beef (tinned)	...	...	DD
21	tins cream	...	...	DD
140	lbs. dates	...	...	DD
431	tins fish	...	...	DD
84	lbs. fish (smoked)	...	...	DD
210	lbs. fish (wet)	...	...	DD
1339	tins fruit	...	...	DD
9	jars fruit	...	...	DD
5	tins fruit juice	...	...	DD
20	lbs. fruit pulp (tinned)	...	...	DD

163½	lbs. ham (tinned)	...	...	...	Unsound.
6	lbs. ham and veal loaf (tinned)				"
11	gallons ice cream	...	...	...	"
4	cartons ice cream cones	...	...	...	"
110	lbs. luncheon meat	...	...	...	"
55	tins macaroni	...	...	...	"
12½	lbs. macaroon paste	...	...	...	"
306	tins meat	...	...	...	"
3	meat pies	...	...	...	"
1090	tins milk	...	...	...	"
40	lbs. mutton	...	...	...	"
539	tins paste (fish)	...	...	...	"
2	jars paste (meat)	...	...	...	"
29	jars pickles	...	...	...	"
82½	lbs. pork	...	...	...	"
59	lbs. potatoes (dehydrated)	...	...	...	"
52	tins preserves	...	...	...	"
24	lbs. pressed beef	...	...	...	"
14	tins pudding (meat)	...	...	...	"
18	lbs. rabbit	...	...	...	"
45	jars salad cream	...	...	...	"
8	jars sandwich spread	...	...	...	"
120½	lbs. sausages	...	...	...	"
10	lbs. sausage rusk	...	...	...	"
25	tins soup	...	...	...	"
88	tins spaghetti	...	...	...	"
24	lbs. tongue (tinned)	...	...	...	"
118	lbs. veal (tinned)	...	...	...	"
829	tins vegetables	...	...	...	"

MILK

Periodic visits to the total of 240 were paid to dairies other than those at dairy farms which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and to the shops selling sterilized milk for the purpose of taking milk samples and to ensure that due observation is being made to the Milk & Dairies Regulations by the occupiers of the premises. With very few exceptions it was found that the businesses were conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

The issue of the necessary Dealers Licences in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised & Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 is the responsibility of Local Authorities and Food & Drugs Authorities, and the following table indicates the number of retail dairies and the number of retail distributors in the City Area, together with the number of licences issued by the Rochester City Council under the Special Designation Regulations

Number of dairies (excluding dairy farms)	...	...	...	...	4
registered distributors (excluding distributors of sterilized milk only) with premises in the City area	...	...	...	...	4
registered distributors (excluding distributors of sterilized milk only) with premises outside the City area	...	...	...	...	7
registered distributors of Sterilized Milk only (General shops, etc.)	...	...	...	...	83

Licences issued -

Tuberculin Tested Milk	Dealers	Licences	...	...	...	10
	Dealers	Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised Milk	Dealers	(Pasteurisers) Licences	...	...	...	3
	Dealers	Licences	...	...	...	10
	Dealers	Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	3
Sterilized Milk	Dealers	Licences	...	...	...	91

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

Milk

The following samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk (Farm bottled)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Non-designated Raw Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

15 samples of the Tuberculin Tested Milk (Farm Bottled) proved upon examination, to satisfy the prescribed tests under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The necessary action was taken with regard to the 5 unsatisfactory samples.

In addition to the foregoing, 10 samples of milk were taken from local herds, from milk supplied to schools and from retailers' premises for examination as to the presence of Tubercle Bacillus in the milk.

All samples showed negative results.

179 samples of Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk from the 3 pasteurising plants in the City area, and from supplies treated outside the area, were sent to the County Bacteriologist and Public Analyst during the year for subjection to the Phosphatase and/or Methylene Blue Tests, and the Turbidity Test in relation to Sterilized Milk. The results are given below:-

<i>Phosphatase Test</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Turbidity Test</i>
153 samples passed 2 samples failed	138 samples passed 9 samples failed	18 samples passed 0 samples failed

WATER

75 samples of drinking water (mains supplies - 70, wells - 5), and 16 of swimming bath water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis during the year. Fuller details in connection with the water supplies will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

ICE-CREAM

During the year 9 vendors were registered under the Rochester Corporation Act, 1936 for the storage and sale of ice-cream in the City Area. The total number of premises and/or vendors registered is 163.

All supplies of ice-cream sold in the City are, with one exception, manufactured in other areas.

At the small manufactory in Rochester the business is carried on in a very satisfactory manner and samples taken, both for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, have proved to be up to standard.

69 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination and the results of the same are as follows:-

Grade I	...	56 samples
Grade II	...	7 samples
Grade III	...	4 samples
Grade IV	...	2 samples

In addition 15 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis and the details relating to these are given on pages 23 and 24.

OTHER SPECIMENS

The following specimens were also submitted to the County Bacteriologist for bacteriological examination during the year:-

Gland of a sheep
Specimen of pork

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING, 1953

164 samples of milk and other foods were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis during the year.

The details relating to the kinds of foods sampled, the results of the analyses made and the action taken with regard to the samples reported as being either inferior or adulterated are shown in the following tables.

Article	No.	Genuine	Adulterated or Deteriorated
Almonds, Ground	1	1	-
Aspirin Tablets	3	3	-
Baking Powder	1	-	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	2	-
Bread	1	1	-
Butter	5	4	1
Coffee, Pure	1	1	-
Coffee & Chicory	1	1	-
Cooking Fat	1	1	-
Crab, Dressed	1	1	-
Cream	3	3	-
Curry Powder	2	2	-
Custard Powder	1	1	-
Doughnuts	3	3	-
Epsom Salts	1	1	-
Fish Cakes	1	1	-
Fish Paste	2	2	-
Greengages	1	-	1
Glycerin	2	2	-
Ice-cream	15	15	-
Iodine, Tincture of	2	2	-
Luncheon Meat	2	2	-
Margarine	1	1	-
Milk	90	90	-
Milk (Tinned)	1	-	1
Mustard	1	1	-
Ox Tongue	1	1	-
Piccailili	1	1	-
Potato Crisps	4	3	1
Prunes	1	-	1
Saccharin Tablets	1	1	-
Sausages, Beef	1	1	-
Sausages, Pork	4	2	2
Semolina	1	1	-
Tea	2	2	-
Vinegar	1	1	-
Wine Non-alcoholic	1	1	-
Zinc Ointment	1	1	-
Totals	164	156	8

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
52	Butter	Rancid.	Sample submitted by customer. Remainder of stocks examined and found to be satisfactory.
46	Greengages	Can blown due to hydrogen swell.	Remainder of stocks surrendered for destruction

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action taken
96	Unsweetened Condensed Milk.	Tin contained slight quantity of hydrogen. Contents fit for immediate consumption only.	Remainder of stocks surrendered for destruction.
146	Baking Powder	Slightly deficient in available carbon dioxide - old stock.	Verbal notice to retailer and remainder of stocks surrendered for destruction.
147	Potato Crisps	Free from mineral oil but frying fat found to be rancid.	Informal sample. Check sample satisfactory. Remainder of stocks destroyed.
105	Prunes in Syrup	Can blown due to hydrogen swell and contents contained 265 parts per million of tin.	Remainder of stocks surrendered for destruction.
162	Pork Sausage	Slightly deficient in meat content.	Informal sample. Formal check sample to be taken.
163	Pork Sausage	Deficient in meat content.	Informal sample. Formal check sample to be taken.

In addition to the foregoing the following foods, which were the subject of complaint from the public, were submitted to the Public Analyst for his observations and report:-

	Condition	Action taken
(1) Portion of wrapped loaf of bread.	Contained pieces of metal.	Letter of warning to the bakery company concerned.
(2) Portions of a loaf of bread.	Contained a piece of tape-like material.	Letter of warning to the bakery company concerned.
(3) Two loaves of wrapped white bread.	Bread showed brown staining which proved upon analysis and examination to be brown flour only.	Representation made to bakery concerned for greater attention when changing from brown dough to white dough in the preparation.

ICE-CREAM

On the 1st June, 1953, the Ministry of Food made a further Standards Order which had the effect of restoring the standard for ice-cream to that which was in operation before the 7th July, 1952.

The prescribed standard for ice-cream is now:-

Fat	not less than 5 per cent.
Sugar	not less than 10 per cent.
Milk solids other than fat	not less than 7½ per cent.

There are two provisos to the standard relating to ice-cream containing fruit, fruit pulp or fruit puree and to 'Parev' (Kosher) Ice, the standard for the latter being not less than 10 per cent fat and not less than 14 per cent sugar.

The results of the analyses of 15 samples submitted to the Public Analyst during the year are as follows:-

FAT.

4-5%	5 6%	6-7%	7 8%	8-9%	9-10%	10-11%	11-12%	12-13%	13% and over	
0	0	1	2	5	2	3	1	1	0	
										Total 15 samples

NON-FATTY SOLIDS.

15-20%	20-25%	25-30%	30% and over	
0	8	7	0	
				Total 15 samples

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No proceedings were instituted during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORK-PLACES

225 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to the factories and workplaces in the City during the year. The number of defects found at the premises visited was 29.

I desire to record my appreciation for the help and co-operation given at all times by H.M. Factory Inspector and her Staff who are responsible for the welfare of the workers at factories where mechanical power is used.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	59	44	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	190	178	16	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	4	3	2	-
Total	253	225	22	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	18	12	-	4	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7):					
(a) Insufficient	5	4	-	4	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	-	-	-	-
Total	29	17	-	11	-

3. OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(Making etc. Wearing (Apparel (Cleansing & Washing	43	-	-	-	-	-
Total	43	-	-	-	-	-

DISINFECTION

147 rooms were disinfected by formaldehyde fumigation after infectious disease, etc. This number includes 73 rooms disinfected after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

26 loads of bedding were removed from premises for the purpose of steam disinfection or destruction, as against 36 in 1952.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no manufacturers or storers of rag flock in the City.

The number of firms of upholsterers in the area affected by the Act is 2 and these have been duly registered by the Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of Licences granted during the year to keep a Pet Shop 3

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of premises, lands, etc. inspected during the year	
(Inspectorial and Rodent Staffs)	1340
Total number of infestations found and treated	372
Sewers - Total number of manholes baited (test baiting and	
poison baiting)	257
" - Number of manholes showing rat infestation	34
Estimated number of rats killed (Ministry of Food formula)	443
Actual bodies recovered	745
MICE: Number of mice destroyed (Actual bodies recovered)	141

In addition to the rodent control operations carried out following complaints and routine inspections of premises, etc., two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. The number of sewer manholes baited together with the number of manholes showing evidence of rat infestation is recorded above.

TIDAL FLOODING

As a result of the very high tide on the 1st February, 1953 serious flooding of the ground floors, to varying depths, of some 201 houses and 107 business premises was caused.

The disastrous effects of the flood water called for much extra work from the Department and over 2,600 visits were made to the families and premises affected.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Primary inspections (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	721
Clearance Areas:- (a) Primary Inspections of premises	123
(b) Total number of visits in addition to	
inspections in (a)	1450
Re-inspections, other than to those in Clearance Areas	1688
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	760
Caravans inspected	34
Visits to Factories and Work-places	225
" " Bakehouses	34
" " Slaughterhouses	550
" " Ice-Cream premises	170
" " Food preparing premises (Canteens etc.)	134
" " Dairies and Milk Shops	157
" " Fried Fish Shops... ..	46
" " Other Food premises (shops, etc.)	483
" " Stables and mews... ..	3
" " Cases of Infectious Disease	145
" " for Food Sampling and Testing	729
" " Water Sampling	110
Overcrowding investigations	74
Market Stalls inspections	742
Shops Acts inspections	2
Atmospheric Pollution (Visits to gauge sites, etc.)	57
Smoke Observations	13
Visits in connection with the presence or otherwise of vermin	
in houses and furniture	357
Visits in connection with the Pet Animals Act, 1951... ..	26
" " " " Rag Flock etc. Act, 1951	3
" " " " Dustbins	399

Visits in connection with the Rodent Control (primary and treatment, etc.)	...	...	...	...	1884
" " " " " Tidal Flooding	...	...	...	...	2665
" " " " " Civil Defence (Rest Centres and Emergency Feeding)	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous visits and inspections...	...	...	...	...	1020
Total...					<u>14830</u>

In conclusion I beg to express my gratitude to the Members of the Council, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to Dr. Murray for the support and guidance I have received throughout the year.

To the Staff in the Department I desire to express my appreciation for their loyal assistance throughout.

I have, also, to express my indebtedness to my colleagues in the other Departments for their ready assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. W. BARTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

G. PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1953.

I. Staff.

TABLE A.

No change.

II. Amount of Shipping Entering the District during the Year.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	229	210,849	8	200	None
Coastwise	564	265,708	1	456	None
Total	793	476,557	9	656	None

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year.

TABLE C.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Number of Passengers INWARDS) Only passenger traffic in Port is day trips
Number of Passengers OUTWARDS) during Summer to adjacent seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC

Principal IMPORTS. Wood pulp, timber, china clay, coal, crude oil, flour, wheat, fertilizers, animal feeding stuffs.

Principal EXPORTS. Cement, plasterboard, bitumen, creosote, diesel and gas oil.

(c) PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Holmsund, Valvi, Kasko, Kotka, Kragero, Avendal, Oslo, Faeker, Hammelvik, Mandyuoto, Gothenburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Simdsvald, Quebec, Clarke City, Las Pedros, Indian Bay.

IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

Not applicable to this Port.

V. Water Supply.

1. No change.

2. REPORTS OF TESTS FOR CONTAMINATION.

26 samples of the Chatham and District Water Company supply, and 38 samples of the

Strood Water Works supply were taken for bacteriological examination. In addition, 6 samples of the Strood Water Works supply were taken for chemical analysis. The results proved them to be good waters.

3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES.

No change.

4. NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITION OF WATER BOATS AND POWERS OF CONTROL BY THE AUTHORITY.

No change.

VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

No change.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

No change.

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

No change.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

No change.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR -

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------|
| (a) Hospital Accommodation |) | |
| (b) Surveillance |) | No change. |
| (c) Cleansing and disinfection |) | |

VII. Smallpox.

1. Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent. -

Long Reach Hospital. Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231

2. Transport of smallpox cases to hospital.

This is provided by the London County Council Ambulance Service. Tel. Waterloo 3311

Application is made by telephone and written confirmation sent to the County Medical Officer. County Hall London.

3. Consultants Available.

Dr. J P. Marsden)

Dr. W.J. Coughlan) River Hospitals, Joyce Green Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.

Dr. M. Mitman)

4. Laboratory Diagnosis Facilities.

Specimens of scabs, etc., may be sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Colindale Avenue Colindale London N W.9. for diagnosis.

VIII. Venereal Disease.

No change.

IX. Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

X. Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

The bulk of the shipping is from Scandinavian and North American Ports and malaria is not generally met with and there have been no cases during the year.

XI. Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No infected or suspected vessels have arrived during the year but in the case of a ship from Morocco all the crew was examined by the Medical Officer as a precautionary measure.

XII. Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

As a routine Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates are examined. Further course of action is determined as a result of such inspection. When inspecting crews' quarters, etc., a general enquiry is usually enough to discover the presence of rats on board, some seamen complain very readily if they know of rats on board the ship.

Cargo workers are a good source of information. The trade in which a vessel has been engaged since her last Deratting, or Deratting Exemption Certificate was issued is an important factor in determining what further inspection should be carried out. Cargoes of wood pulp and pulp wood have little attraction for rats and vessels constantly engaged in this trade are not often infested; if rats are found they are generally confined to a peak or store room and are not distributed throughout the ship.

On the other hand, a ship that has been employed for some time in carrying grain, or has carried out a long trip with such a cargo, merits further investigation particularly if her rat certificate is some months old. Such cargoes, at present, do not arrive in this Port but, occasionally, large vessels which have carried such cargoes, arrive empty to load cement.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS.

There is no Rodent Operator permanently on Port work but, in cases where it is deemed necessary, the shore Rodent Operator is employed in order to obtain specimens of rats for bacteriological examination.

(3) DERATTING OF SHIPS.

For the issue of International Deratting Certificates an arrangement exists under Article 4 of the Regulations whereby the local Port Health Inspector carries out the inspection and forwards the report to the London Port Health Authority for the issue of the certificate. If it should be necessary to derat a ship by fumigation the firm employed would be that approved by the London Authority. In other cases of deratting, poisons, traps, sulphur and varnish boards are the methods in use.

When inspecting a vessel for the issue of an International Sanitary Convention Certificate the inspection is carried out as required by the regulations governing the issue of such a certificate. The whole vessel from peaks, holds and engine room to

chart and wireless rooms is inspected and report is made on harbourage, specifying the particular harbourage found in each compartment.

For the issue of International Deratting Exemption Certificates the Port of Rochester became an approved Port as from 1st September, 1953.

(4) RAT-PROOFING OF SHIPS.

There are no vessels other than Naval vessels, built in this Port and measures concerning rat-proofing are confined to dealing with existing rat-proofing which has suffered damage on board vessels in service, and inspecting rat-proofing on the smaller vessels undergoing repair and refit in local repair yards.

A proportion of the rats caught in the vicinity of the River is sent, as a routine measure, for bacteriological examination for plague. During the year 5 black and 4 brown rats were submitted for such examination - no B. Pestis was found.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	"
Species not known	"
Sent for examination	"
Infected with plague	"

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

No of Deratting Certificates Issued					No of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	7

13 Deratting Exemption Certificates were also issued to British coastwise vessels making occasional trips to Continental Ports

18 Rodent Control Certificates were issued

XIII. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
British Vessels 437	Nil	41	38 complied with
Foreign Vessels 211	Nil	15	14 " "
River Craft 197	Nil	11	10 " "

XIV. Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934 and 1948.

No change.

XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

Rochester is not an approved Port for the landing of aliens.

XVI. Miscellaneous.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No change.

RIVER WATER SAMPLES.

24 samples of river water were submitted for baceteriological examination which showed evidence of recent faecal contamination but no pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

SHIPS' DRINKING WATER SAMPLES.

23 samples of drinking water were taken from the tanks of ships entering the Port and submitted for bacteriological examination. In the case of four ships the water was found to be contaminated: on notification of this fact, together with advice, by the Port Medical Officer the Owners immediately arranged for the cleansing and treatment of the tanks concerned.

CASES OF SICKNESS.

1 Septic throat	1 broken finger	1 Neuralgia
1 Respiratory condition	1 Venereal Disease	1 Appendicitis
	1 Oil dermatitis on hand	1 Knee injury

FOOD INSPECTION.

110 cargoes of flour, wheat, cheese, potatoes, oats, barley and maize were examined. Fifty bags of flour damaged by bilge water were returned to mills for treatment.

No food cargoes arrived from foreign ports.

MOSQUITOES.

No change.

PORT FISHERY.

No change.

